



APPENDIX

Marked-up versions of the claimed amended by the Response filed May 5, 2003, are presented below.

In the claims:

Sub B1
A1
(Amended) A method of generating a payment indicium, comprising:
generating a corroborative digital token from payment information; and
modulating a base image with a graphical encoding of the corroborative digital token
to produce a payment indicium by

dividing the base image into multiple image areas,
segmenting image areas to be encoded into multiple groups based on pixel
values in the image areas to be encoded, and
encoding the segmented image areas with sets of two-dimensional code
patterns to graphically encode the corroborative digital token in the
payment indicium, wherein each set of code patterns encodes a
respective corresponding group of image areas.

Sub B2
A2
(Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the image areas to be encoded are
segmented into multiple halftone groups based on gray level values in the images to be
encoded, and the segmented image areas are encoded with respective corresponding sets of
two-dimensional, coded halftone patterns [base image is modulated based upon a half-tone
encoding process].

8. (Amended) A system for generating a payment indicium, comprising an
encoder configured to:
generate a corroborative digital token from payment information; and
modulate a base image with a graphical encoding of the corroborative digital token to
produce a payment indicium by

dividing the base image into multiple image areas,
segmenting image areas to be encoded into multiple groups based on pixel
values in the image areas to be encoded, and

A2
Cont'd
B1

encoding the segmented image areas with sets of two-dimensional code patterns to graphically encode the corroborative digital token in the payment indicium, wherein each set of code patterns encodes a respective corresponding group of image areas.

A3

Sub B1

10. (Amended) A method of generating a payment indicium with a printer of a particular type, comprising:

identifying the type of the printer;
selecting a printing resolution based on the identified type of the printer; and
printing a payment indicium containing embedded payment information on a printing surface with the printer set to the selected printing resolution

[rendering a payment indicium containing embedded payment information on a printing surface with a printing characteristic that degrades with photographic reproductions such that the embedded payment information is extractable from an original rendering of the payment indicium but is un-extractable from a photographic reproduction of an original rendering of the payment indicium].

✓

Please cancel claim 11 without prejudice.

A4

Sub B1

12. (Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the [payment indicium is rendered as a bit map image with a] selected printing resolution is [of] 100 dots per inch, or greater if the identified printer type is an ink-jet printer.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the [payment indicium is rendered as a bit map image with a] selected printing resolution is [of] 125 dots per inch, or greater if the identified printer type is a laser printer.

✓

Please cancel claim 14 without prejudice.

A5

Sub B1

15. (Amended) A method of generating a payment indicium, comprising:

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B1
encoding payment information into a corroborative digital token with at least one encoding level that varies depending on a payment value specified in the payment information [based at least in part upon one or more variable encoding parameters]; and rendering a payment indicium containing the encoded payment information.

Al 5 up B1
19. (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein an encoding robustness level parameter varies with payment value.

21. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein image areas to be encoded are segmented into multiple halftone groups based on gray level values in the images to be encoded, and the segmented image areas are encoded with respective corresponding sets of two-dimensional, coded halftone patterns.

A9
22. (New) The method of claim 10, further comprising:
generating a corroborative digital token from payment information;
dividing a base image into multiple image areas;
segmenting image areas to be encoded into multiple groups based on pixel values in the image areas to be encoded; and
encoding the segmented image areas with sets of two-dimensional code patterns to graphically encode the corroborative digital token in the payment indicium, wherein each set of code patterns encodes a respective corresponding group of image areas.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein image areas to be encoded are segmented into multiple halftone groups based on gray level values in the images to be encoded, and the segmented image areas are encoded with respective corresponding sets of two-dimensional, coded halftone patterns.

24. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
dividing a base image into multiple image areas;
segmenting image areas to be encoded into multiple groups based on pixel values in the image areas to be encoded; and

encoding the segmented image areas with sets of two-dimensional code patterns to graphically encode the corroborative digital token in the payment indicium, wherein each set of code patterns encodes a respective corresponding group of image areas.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein image areas to be encoded are segmented into multiple halftone groups based on gray level values in the images to be encoded, and the segmented image areas are encoded with respective corresponding sets of two-dimensional, coded halftone patterns.
